Member States have conveyed details of locations where assessed reserves are maintained and also storage methods and quality control measures, enabling finalization of guidelines. A member State can draw on the reserve of the requested member State based on mutually agreed financial terms.

American experts inspecting defence equipments

†3550. SHRI PRABHAT JHA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to ink a deal with America whereby American experts would be empowered to inspect defence equipment sold to India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the justification for providing such a power to America; and

(d) whether this deal is likely to derail India's defence policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR) : (a) and (b) During the visit of US Secretary of State Mrs Hillary Clinton to India from 17-21 July 2009, India and the US agreed on a new standard End Use Monitoring clause that will be included in letters of Offer and Acceptance for acquisition of defence articles and equipment to be acquired by Government of India from the US Government. No blanket agreement has been signed. The agreed formulation provides that when the US Government desires to undertake the end use monitoring of specific equipment, they shall undertake consultations with India and that it shall be pursuant to such consultations and mutual agreement that the relevant articles would be made available for verification at an agreed date, place and time.

(c) As per the stipulations of the US Arms Export Control Act of 1976, the US Government is required to undertake end use verification of transferred defence articles. The joint verification arranagement that India has entered into does not give a unilateral right or power to the US Administration. The key advantage is that by putting in place a joint verification arranagement that Government of India finds acceptable, India now has the option of purchasing high end defence technology from the United States Government if it requires such articles.

(d) No. The End Use Monitoring arrangaement in no way dilutes India's defence policy-but rather enhances India's access to the best technology required to meet her security requirements.

Diversion of flow of Brahmaputra River

†3551. SHRI BALBIR PUNJ : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether China proposes to divert the flow of Brahmaputra river for hydro-electricity project;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether due to this the river would be filled with silt due to decrease in flow of Brahmaputra river in India;

(c) the Government's action in this regard;

(d) whether China has completed the road linking Lhasa to Medog under the first phase of 40,000 MW electricity generation project in Madak area of Tibet which is just 30 KM from Arunachal Pradesh border and keeping this is view whether there is chance of encroachment in Arunachal Pradesh by China; and

(e) if so, Government policy in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR) : (a) to (c) Government has seen media reports that China proposes to divert the Brahmaputra river. The Chinese Foreign Ministry has denied such reports. Government is regularly monitoring the flows in the Brahmaputra river. India and China have established an expert-level mechanism to discuss interaction and cooperation on all issues regarding trans-border rivers. The India-China Expert Level Mechanism on Trans Border Rivers had held three meetings in September 2007, April 2008, and April 2009. Government takes up all issues relating to Brahmaputra river, with the Chinese side through this Expert Level Mechanism.

(d) and (e) China has constructed a road linking Lhasa to Medog country in the Tibet Autonomous Region. Government is giving careful and special attention to the development of infrastructure in the border areas opposite China, in order to meet our security requirements and also to facilitate the economic development of these areas.

Posts available in foreign missions

3552. SHRI AVTAR SINGH KARIMPURI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any posts of Second Secretary (Punjabi) and Cultural Attache (Punjabi) exits in our foreign mission abroad;

(b) if so, the details thereof, country-wise;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and whether Goverment proposes to create the said posts in foreign mission, in view of the ever-increasing punjabi diaspora in foreign countries;

(d) if so, by when these would be created; and

(e) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR) : (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Indian Missions and Posts are mandated to provide services to all persons of Indian origin.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.